GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COAL AND MINES
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3131
ANSWERED ON:10.12.2002
ACCIDENT IN GOVINDPUR COAL MINES AREA
SUBODH ROY

Will the Minister of COAL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn towards the news-item appearing in the Rashtriya Sahara dated October 11, 2002, regarding death of 20 persons due to an accident in the Govindpur coal mines area;

(b) is so, the facts of the matter reported therein and the reaction of the Government thereto;

(c) whether action is being taken by the Government to provide compensation and employment to the dependents of the families of the deceased; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL & MINES AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW JUSTICE SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD

(a) & (b): On the publication of news in the Rastriya Sahara dated 11-10-2002 the site was jointly inspected by officials of Kathara area and Govindpur project, DGMS and State officials including Dy. Commissioner(D.C.), Bokaro and Superintend of Police (S.P.) Bokaro and cleaning/digging off fallen debris was done to find out persons allegedly buried under the debris in their presence but no person was found buried under the debris and thus the report was unconfirmed.

Dy. Commissioner(D.C.), Bokaro called a meeting in his office on 20-10-2002 in which representative of CCL Hq., Dhori, B&K and Kathara areas, DGMS officials (Koderma region) and State officials participated. In the meeting a task force was constituted by D.C. for each of the above three areas headed by Staff Officer (mining) and consisting of Area Security Officer, Area Safety Officer and Project Officer as members. DGMS/Koderma, one Executive Magistrate authorised by S.D.O., D.M.O. and D.F.O. will also be associated in the committee. The committee will be provided help of 4/16 armed guards. The inspection of mines of Dhori, B&K and Kathara areas of CCL where mine workings are suspended/discontinued/abandoned will be done by the task force periodically.

In general, the preventive steps being taken by management of Central Coalfields Limited are as under:-

(i) Whenever case of illegal mining is noticed the same is reported to the civil authorities.

(ii) The approach routes to the places of suspected illegal mining sites are cut off/fenced off to prevent entry.

(iii) Display boards/warning showing that entry into and carrying out any activity in the area is illegal and dangerous.

(iv) Persons are warned against carrying such activity and trespassing in these areas by publishing in local newspaper in local language.

(v) Close liaison is maintained with state authority in curbing such activities.

(vi) Exposed coal seam is covered by dozing and by filling with water to prevent illegal mining.

(c) & (d): Do not arise in view of reply given in (a) & (b) above.